

# Matthew 5:10-12

## *Application Questions*

1. Have you ever experienced persecution because you are living for Jesus? (This includes people mocking you, lying about you, or saying evil things about you.) Explain.
2. Have you ever received persecution, opposition, disrespect or betrayal from “insiders” (i.e. religious people, church people or family members)? Why is this so hard to take? (Read Psalm 55:12-14)
3. Jesus says that those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake are blessed. What are some ways Christians are opposed other than for righteousness’ sake? How does this call us to self-examination before we claim that we are being “persecuted”?
4. How does knowing that God has a purpose in persecution help you endure it? Alan Redpath said, “People are the nails that drive us to the cross.” Without naming names, can you think of someone who has been a “thorn in your flesh” or your “cross to bear” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Luke 9:23)? How can you “take pleasure” in this so that Christ’s grace and power rest upon you?
5. How can rejoicing in our future heavenly reward when we are persecuted, spoken falsely against or insulted help us overcome? What are some practical ways you can “rejoice in the Lord always” and discover God’s strength (Nehemiah 8:10)?